
Living Springs

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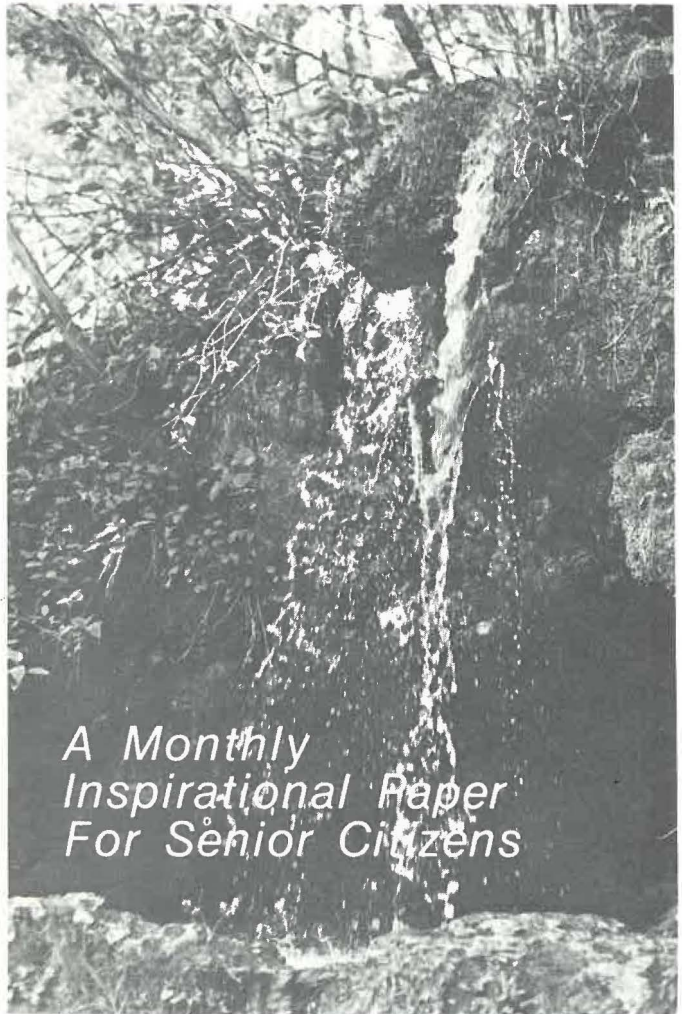
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Living Springs

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*A Monthly
Inspirational Paper
For Senior Citizens*

SEPTEMBER 1979

ASSURANCE

and the Word of God

by
Dr. Lehman Strauss

The Bible is the Word of God, and it appears obvious that some passages were given by God for the express purpose of imparting to His children full assurance of faith. "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life..." (I John 5:13). The knowledge or assurance of salvation comes through believing what the Bible says. A failure to understand or believe the Word of God will prevent one possessing the assurance of salvation. I have felt at times that we preachers are at fault when our sermons lack the ring of certainty and assurance. Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica, "For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance..." (I Thessalonians 1:5). Our preaching and teaching, like Paul's, should be in the power of the Holy Spirit so as to produce much assurance. The Thessalonian believers knew they were saved, and God wants all of His children to have this assurance.

Knowledge, or understanding, is a requisite to assurance. When writing to the Christians at Colosse, Paul spoke of the "riches of the full assurance of understanding" (Colossians 2:2). Every believer can possess the assurance which comes through understanding the Word of God. Timothy never doubted that he was saved. Paul instructed him to "Study..." (II Timothy 2:15), and then he added, "But continue thou in the things which thou has learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them" (Timothy 3:14). You see, assurance comes through learning. Then follows Paul's words, "And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (II Timothy 3:15). Through studying "the Holy Scriptures" Timothy was made "wise unto salvation," and of this he was "assured."

Every believer can possess the assurance the Bible offers because:

1. The Bible is Inspired. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Timothy 3:16). Here the word "inspired" means "God-breathed." The Breath, or the Spirit of God, was the Agent in giving the Word of God. Because of the source of the Scriptures, you should accept them in simple faith.

2. The Bible is Infallible. "The law of the LORD is perfect..." (Psalm 19:7). "The words of the LORD are pure words..." (Psalm 12:6). "The word of the LORD is tried (refined)..." (Psalm 18:30). Because of the soundness of the Scriptures, you should accept them in simple faith.

3. The Bible is Indestructible. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible (imperishable), by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (I Peter 1:23). "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away" (Mark 13:31). "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever" (Isaiah 40:8). Because of the surety of the Scriptures, you should accept them in simple faith.

The Bible speaks about "the full assurance of understanding" (Colossians 2:2) and "the full assurance of faith" (Hebrews 10:22). You will never have the full assurance of understanding without the knowledge of God's Word. The starting point is in the knowledge and understanding of the Bible. Upon the soul's discovery of the knowledge of salvation, faith lays hold of that knowledge and confidently rests in it. If the Christian neglects to read and study the Bible, he remains uninformed and uninstructed, and it is then that doubts enter the mind. Search the Scriptures, and in them you will find many wonderful and assuring truths.

REFLECTIONS of FAITH

*Edited by
Pat Farmwald*

The Mocking Bird

There's a mocking bird singing high up
in a tree.
I know he is singing for you and for me.
So sweetly he's singing, so beautiful
is he,
He is telling us all of the wonders
he sees.
All of God's blessings for you and for me,
The beautiful mocking bird sings high
in a tree.
C.F. Bartlett

God's Painting

Sitting by my window,
Gazing on the distant land,
Wondering at the beauty
Painted by God's Hand.

Trees in all their splendor,
Skies of azure blue.
No hand but God's Hand
Could paint so pure and true.
C.F. Bartlett



THE LACK OF NOTHING

by
Mark J. Highman

One of the many favorite passages of the elderly is Psalm 23. It is indeed a beautiful passage dealing with our Shepherd with His sheep. The first verse of this Psalm is: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." There are three aspects I would like to make comment on: the provider, the promise, and the people it concerns.

The PROVIDER is the most important aspect in this verse because He is our guarantee that the rest of the verse, and passage, shall come to pass. The provider is called "Lord" and "Shepherd."

In this verse we note that "Lord" is actually "Jehovah God." This is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This is the God who created the universe in six days; and by Him all things consist. Our God owns the cattle on a thousand hills—our God can provide for you!

The name "SHEPHERD" brings out one attribute of God—the kind, loving, gentle Saviour. In Bible days the shepherd was totally dedicated to his sheep, and oftentimes it meant

putting his life on the line. The shepherd had to protect the sheep from such animals as lions and wolves; and was responsible for feeding and watering them. The shepherd was the sheep's saviour! Our God is our Shepherd, and our Saviour. He is our constant provider and hope in time of need.

The PROMISE is: the lack of nothing. Dr. Matthew Henry put it best this way: "I shall be supplied with whatever I need; and, if I have not everything I desire, I may conclude it is either not fit for me or not good for me, or I shall have it in due time." The Lord is not slack concerning any promise—if you need it, God will provide it!

The problem many Christians have is that they ask the Lord for things they do not need. You see, God does not always provide everything we want, but the things that we need. Sometimes He does give us things we want just because He loves us and likes to give us good things. Many times we want things that are not good for us, which God does not supply for us. Isn't it great how He watches over you and me?

The PEOPLE to whom the promises are given can be you, if you are truly a born-again believer. If you are unsaved, then consider how simple salvation really is. All you need is to believe that Christ, God in the flesh, came to earth to die for you, a sinner (John 3:16; Romans 3:23), and rose again from the dead to give you life. Give your life over to God, trusting only Him for eternal life, for there is no way we can save ourselves. With a simple prayer like this you can be saved (John 6:47), and these promises can be yours, too!

Daily Walk Through God's Word

"O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth." Isaiah 25:1.

September	Morning Isaiah	Evening Revelation
1	3,4	6
2	5,6	7
3	7,8	8
4	9,10	9
5	11,12	10
6	13,14	11
7	15,16	12
8	17,18	13
9	19,20	14
10	21,22	15
11	23,24	16
12	25,26	17
13	27,28	18
14	29,30	19
15	31,32	20
16	33,34	21
17	35,36	22
		Psalms
18	37,38	1,2
19	39,40	3,4
20	41,42	5
21	43,44	6
22	45,46	7
23	47,48	8
24	49,50	9
25	51,52	10
26	53,54	11,12
27	55,56	13,14
28	57,58	15,16
29	59,60	17
30	61,62	18

At the end of September you'll be three-fourths of the way to your goal of reading through the Bible in a year. Remember a certificate will be awarded by *Living Springs* to anyone who successfully completes the readings. Don't quit now!

This month I have had a rare privilege of interviewing two very close and special people at Heathergreen II Nursing Home. The reason we have two is because their story would not be complete any other way.

Bertha Dolk and Louise Harold are roommates at Heathergreen Nursing Home in Jamestown, Ohio and have been so for five years. They are both wonderful Christian people whom the Lord has richly blessed.

Bertha was saved when she was 13 years old, July 24, 1916. She was challenged by the Holy Spirit in a revival meeting in Georgia, and was baptized "in a creek" at the same time.

Louise was saved later in her life during a revival meeting conducted by her brother. She accepted the Lord as her Savior April 21, 1954, twenty days after her physical birthday. She claimed, "I don't remember anything about the first birthday, but I surely do of the second!" Praise God for this. She was baptized "in a big water hole in a creek."

Their love for the Lord and for each other is quite noticeable between these two sisters in Christ. They simply share their lives together.

Louise said that if they have one cookie, they break it in two. Bertha has the privilege of reading the Bible to Louise each day.

The difference between these two is that Bertha is still able to walk around, but Louise is confined to her bed or chair. She cannot move her legs or hands. She knows that one day she shall, but that may be when the Lord comes to take her home!

Does that stop Louise and her ministry? No! These two have a real ministry going at the home. They are "missionaries" on this "mission

Servants

rk J. Highman

field" of Heathergreen Nursing Home. Both witness to the people at the home. They know it is important to plant the seed.

They also conduct a regular prayer meeting with three other women in the Home. These three come into Louise's and Bertha's room, gather round Louise's bed, hold hands in a circle, and pray. Included in their prayers are the lost in the Home, and those who are sick.

Bertha was telling me the story of one lady who recently accepted Christ as her Savior by the witness of some college students. This newly saved woman did not have a Bible, so Bertha gave her one of her own. Even though it held sentimental value, she (Bertha) knew that it was worth giving to her for her spiritual growth! Bertha has been encouraging her to continually read God's Holy Word.

It's great to see how people can be when under the power and influence of the Holy Spirit. *You can not retire spiritually - Never!* God can use you as long as you are willing to be used of Him. Bertha and Louise are blooming examples of this.

No matter where you are, or how incapable you think you may be, or how physically handicapped you are, you are never incapable of serving God in some way. Maybe it is only helping someone read the Bible or pray; maybe it's telling someone how he can know Christ as his Savior; maybe it's only compiling a list of prayer requests and praying several times each day for pastors, missionaries, the sick, etc. But you *can* serve the Lord! If you haven't, why not get involved today? God will give you the ability, if you give Him the time!

Note Worthy

by
LoAnna Hamilton

Many hymns are written out of interesting and unique circumstances. "Let Jesus Come Into Your Heart" is one such hymn.

A minister at a camp meeting was speaking on "Repentance." One woman came under much conviction and went forward, but, like so many people, she did not want to receive the gift of salvation; she wanted to give something instead. Mrs. Morris, who came to pray with her, said, "Just now your doubting give o'er." The song leader said, "Just now reject Him no more." The preacher added, "Just now throw open the door," and Mrs. Morris finished with, "Let Jesus Come Into Your Heart." These words were used to convince the woman that she needed to accept Christ. Mrs. Morris wrote the rest of the words to the song before the meeting was over.

God used those simple phrases to bring a woman to Christ, and He can use those same words today. Praise God that He gives people the privilege of being used to bring others to Him!

Just now, your doubting give o'er;
Just now, reject Him no more;
Just now, throw open the door;
Let Jesus come into your heart.

Verse For The Month:

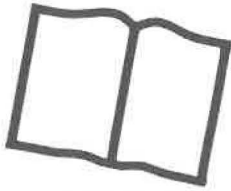
My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

John 10:27-28

Thought For The Month

Those who begin the day with prayer usually end it with praise.

Light for Living



by Dr. James T. Jeremiah

A LOOK AT
THE BOOK

The army recruits were lined up for marching practice. "All raise your left leg," yelled the sergeant. One recruit down the line mistakenly raised his right leg. "Awright," yelled the sergeant, "who's the guy down there with both legs in the air?"

A training director of a large corporation, about to retire, was passing on advice to his replacement. "I have no theoretical advice to give you," he said, "but I'll tell you one thing learned from experience. When you're conducting training sessions some guy will always disagree with what you're saying. He will probably shake his head violently. You will be tempted to go after him and convert him then and there. Don't do it. He is probably the only one who is listening."

In one of Paul Harvey's news reports, he states that "a large percentage of the hippie types who winter in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, are collecting \$90 a week unemployment pay—tax-free. Yet each month our government blithely announces an increase in the percentage of Americans who are not working and are living off the taxes of those who do. Self-government might not survive, you know. Self-government requires self-discipline, and we've been neglecting that."

Effective Christian living demands self-discipline too. Many pews in our churches are empty. Missions and other areas of Christian service are in deep, financial need. Lost souls continue on their way to hell without a clear gospel message. All of this and much more is tragically true because we who know Christ are not willing to pay the price of a disciplined Christian life.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he" (Prov. 29:18). "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few" (Matt. 9:36, 37).

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13, 14).

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1).

There is no easy way to be the kind of Christian we ought to be. It requires trust in God, dedication to His will and total involvement in His service. Discipline is not only deserved, it is demanded.

Let's Chatter

by

About a Matter

Mark Highman

I recently received a post card from a reader that really encouraged me and my staff.

Dear Friends In Christ,

Just a note to let you know the LIVING SPRINGS publications is very much appreciated by me. When I'm finished with them, I mail them to a friend who also enjoys them.

Your writers know how to help us in our relationship to the Lord. I always like to read about how hymns come about and I like to read Dr. Jeremiah's articles along with *all* the others. LIVING SPRINGS is uplifting and blesses my life. Thank you all.

Sincerely,

Arlene Brandt (signed)

Remember, we are looking forward to hearing from ALL of our readers and subscribers. Ten cents for a post card isn't too much in consideration of the hundreds of people who are blessed by your letter. Write us today!

LIVING SPRINGS

Box 601

Cedarville, Ohio 45314

Quizzle by Gary Welton

Labor, ordained by God, brings glory to Him. Below, list one name for God for each of the letters, which spell Labor Day. A sample list of places where you can find names, is given at the bottom, but the exercise will be most meaningful if you try to list some names yourself without referring to the verses provided. The list may include names for the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit.

L _____
A _____
B _____
O _____
R _____

D _____
A _____
Y _____

Sample List: L-John 1:29; A-Daniel 7:9;
B-John 3:16; O-Rev. 22:13; R-II Tim. 4:8;
D-Rom. 11:26; A-Rev. 1:8; Y-Isaiah 40:9.

Looking At God's Creation

by
Mark J. Highman

Romans 12:1-2 reads: "I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God...And be not conformed to this world, but be transformed..."

The idea behind the word "transformed" is *metamorphosis*. Metamorphosis is the process whereby a caterpillar inside the cocoon is changed into the butterfly of his breed.

What is so interesting about this is the comparison that we can make between the butterfly and man.

Before we are born-again the Bible looks at us as very ugly. Romans 3:10 and 21b tells us that there is none righteous, nor good, no, not one.

Romans 3:13-17 reads: "(Man's) mouth is full of cursings and bitterness. (His) feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in (his) ways; and the way of peace (has he) not known."



Romans 3:23 says that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Before God there is no good in man, only total ugliness and unrighteousness. You might call this the "caterpillar" state of man.

The Bible commands for a transformation in the life of man, a metamorphosis process. What is this likened to in the life of man? It is salvation.

When you accept Jesus Christ as Saviour you are "a new creature; old things pass away; behold, all things are become new" (II Cor. 5:17).

Revelation 1:5 calls this a washing through the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 5:26 reads, "That he might sanctify (set apart) and cleanse (the believer) with the washing of water by the Word." This "setting apart" is the process, again, of transformation or metamorphosis—a total change, something new, clean, and outstandingly different from the old. This is the "butterfly" state of man.

And your life? Even though you may be born again, you may still be living like a butterfly hiding his beauty and continuing to live like a caterpillar.

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But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 4:14

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Quizzle

Answers from sample list: L-Lamb of God;
A-Ancient of Days; B-Begotten Son; O-Omega;
R-Righteous Judge; D-Deliverer; A-Almighty;
Y-Your God.